

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/529,848
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT
NON-FINAL

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the objection relating to the use of the terminology "characterized in that." This terminology has been deleted and the term --wherein-- has been substituted therefor as kindly suggested in the Action.

Claim 1 has also been amended to ensure a proper interpretation of the claim by reciting that least some of single yarns constituting the textile fabric are surrounded by the resin, and at least some of the single yarns constituting the textile fabric are not surrounded by the resin. This amendment is supported, for example, by the drawings of the application as described in the specification disclosure.

Claim 17 has been amended to precisely recite the method of the invention as "comprising" applying a specified resin solution to a textile fabric under specified conditions to cause the resin to infiltrate into the textile fabric to an extent that at least some of single yarns constituting the textile fabric are surrounded by the resin, and at least some of the single yarns constituting the textile fabric are not surrounded by the resin. This amendment is supported, for example, by the description of the product resulting from the method as recited in original claim 1.

Claims 1-19 are rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by EP 1 270 800 B1, identified in the Action

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as Nagaoka et al. (hereinafter: "Nagaoka"). Nagaoka, however, fails to disclose a coated airbag base fabric including each of the limitations of claims 1-16 and fails to disclose a method for manufacturing a coated airbag base fabric including each of the limitations of claims 17-19, particularly as defined in these claims as amended, and does not support the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection.

Nagaoka discloses a method for manufacturing a coated fabric as shown, for example, in Fig. 2 of the present application in which the coating layer does not penetrate the interstices of the fabric and does not surround at least some, but not all, of the single yarns constituting the fabric as required in the claims of the application. This fact is supported throughout the disclosure of Nagaoka as illustrated, for example, by the following descriptions:

[0024] ... Moreover, the coating layer is formed without substantial penetration into the interior of the base fabric cross section. As a result, formation of a hard fabric caused by the penetration of the elastomer into the interior of the fabric is prevented. ...

[0039] ... For the coated fabric of the present invention, the coated thin layer forming the recessed and protruded surface covers the entire surface of the vase fabric in

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such a manner that penetration of the elastomer into the base fabric yarn is suppressed to the lowest degree. ... The sure presence of a coated layer on the fabric surface without penetration of the coating elastomer into the fabric achieves improvement of a tear strength. ...

[0056] ... The adhesion amount of the finish oil or lubricant (percentage of the mass of the lubricant on the basis of the total mass that is the sum of the mass of the woven fabric and the mass of the lubricant) on the base fabric is determined to be 0.8% by weight or more. As a result, penetration of the coating liquid into the woven fabric is suppressed and a coating layer having a uniform thickness is formed along the recesses and protrusions of the yarn of the fabric. ...

(Emphasis added).

The above descriptions support a conclusion that coating resin does not penetrate the interstices of the fabric in Nagaoka so as to surround at least some of the single yarns.

In addition, Nagaoka mentions that "the shape of the coating knife may be semicircular, rectangular or recessed at the knife head" (EP 1270800 [0054]). These devices avoid causing penetration of the resin into the interstices of the fabric.

On the other hand, it is necessary in the present invention

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that the resin penetrate the interstices of the fabric, such as illustrated in Fig.1. Therefore, a sharp-edged coating knife is used as a coating knife in the present invention to reduce the coating weight. A number of the single yarns constituting the fabric are surrounded by the resin and this construction enables the present invention to provide strong adhesion between the coating layer and the base fabric.

The improvement of adhesion between the coating layer and fabric is disclosed in the examples of the present application. In Comparative Example 2 a comma coater was used. The penetration of the resin was slight and the adhesion of the resin was poor. In Example 1, however, a floating knife caused sufficient penetration of the resin into the fabric and excellent adhesion. These results show that the penetration of the resin into the fabric contributes to the adhesion between a coating layer and a base fabric.

For the above reasons, Nagaoka does not disclose that at least some of the single yarns constituting the textile fabric are surrounded by the resin, and at least some of the single yarns constituting the textile fabric are not surrounded by the resin of the coated fabric disclosed therein. Moreover, such surrounding of single yarns is not inherent in the coated fabric of Nagaoka within the meaning of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Therefore, Nagaoka does not disclose each of the elements of the coated airbag

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base fabric and the method for manufacturing a coated airbag base fabric defined by claims 1-19 of the application and does not support the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection.


Removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims is in order and is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated June 25, 2009.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
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